

## Message Text

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67

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 074887

R 131426Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8633

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0448

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOVIET PROVOCATION AGAINST SAKHAROV

REF: 75 MOSCOW 17597

1. WELL-KNOWN JEWISH DISSIDENT MARK AZBEL TOLD EMBOFF JANUARY 12 OF WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS ANOTHER "KGB PROVOCATION" AGAINST SAKHAROV. AZBEL SAID HE HEARD THE STORY DIRECTLY FROM MRS. SAKHAROV. ACCORDING TO AZBEL, SOME TEN DAYS AGO, SAKHAROV WAS WALKING NEAR HIS HOME WHEN TWO BIG, YOUNG MEN CAME UP TO HIM, JOSTLED HIM AND MADE OFF WITH HIS HAT. AT THIS POINT THE DRIVER OF A BLACK VOLGA WHICH HAPPENED TO BE PARKED THERE GOT OUT AND TRIED TO GET SAKHAROV TO GO WITH HIM TO MAKE A PROTEST AT THE NEAREST POLICE STATION. WHEN SAKHAROV REFUSED, SAYING THAT THE INCIDENT WAS OF NO IMPORTANCE, THE DRIVER BEGAN INSISTING AND FOLLOWED SAKHAROV HOME SUGGESTING THAT HE GO WITH HIM IN THE CAR TO THE POLICE STATION.

2. AZBEL SAID THAT THE SAKHAROVs ARE CONVINCED THAT THIS WAS ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO UNSETTLE HIM. WHILE THE EVENTS ARE LESS DRAMATIC THAN THOSE IN REFTTEL, THE SAKHAROVs REPORTEDLY FEEL THAT THEY ARE NOW THE OBJECTS OF AN ORCHESTRATED PLAN OF HARRASSMENT. AZBEL SAID THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT SAKHAROV  
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WOULD "GO PUBLIC" WITH THIS LATEST PROVOCATION. HE

ADDED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT SAKHAROV  
HAD ASKED THOSE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS WHO KNEW ABOUT  
THE PREVIOUS PROVOCATION NOT TO PUBLISH IT.  
SUCH ATTEMPTS AT INTIMIDATION, CONCLUDED AZBEL, WOULD  
ONLY MAKE SAKHAROV STILL MORE DETERMINED TO CARRY ON  
HIS WORK, WHILE THE FACT OF HIS NOBEL PRIZE HAS  
GIVEN HIM INCREASED IMMUNITY FROM ARREST.

MATLOCK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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